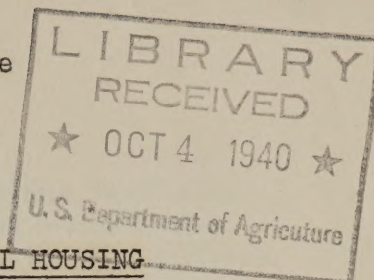


United States Department of Agriculture
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington, D. C.



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EXTENSION SERVICE FUNCTIONS RELATING TO RURAL HOUSING

PREPARED FOR THE RURAL HOUSING GET-TOGETHER
of the
CENTRAL HOUSING COMMITTEE ON RURAL HOUSING

Monday, August 5, 1940

The Extension Service, as the cooperative educational service agency for the Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges, was established under the Smith-Lever Act, approved May 8, 1914, to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of the same.

This act authorized the Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges and universities to give instruction to persons not attending the colleges. Thus cooperative extension work is conducted with county extension agents under the supervision of State Extension Services established in the land-grant colleges to cooperate with the extension work of the Department of Agriculture. The 48 States and Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico are served in 3,075 counties with a total of over 9,000 State and county extension field workers. Agricultural extension work includes both adult and junior work and touches every phase of farming and farm living. Over 1,600 State specialists keep county extension workers abreast with scientific and other progress and produce literature and other materials for conducting educational work.

Over 200 of these State specialists deal in some manner with the housing problem, and more than 50 of them deal specifically with farm house and building plan service. Through the county agricultural and home demonstration agents, both white and negro, the specialists aid farm families with information, advice, instruction, and demonstrations concerning the planning, construction, and improvement of houses and all other types of farm buildings.

In cooperation with the State agricultural colleges and other agencies the Extension Service and the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering have developed regional selections/1 of building plans, illustrated in catalogs, and through this means have improved the standards of house and other building plans made available to farm people, and have

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- /1 F. B. 1738, Farmhouse Plans.
M. P. 278, Plans of Farm Buildings for Northeastern States.
M. P. 319, Plans of Farm Buildings for Western States.
M. P. 360, Plans of Farm Buildings for Southern States.
Midwest Farm Building Plan Service (P.O. Station A, Iowa State College).

assisted the States in making working drawings of these plans available through every county extension office. This building-plan educational service also assists architects, building-material manufacturers, dealers, and builders to serve better the requirements of farm families for houses and other buildings suitable to their special needs.

The Extension Service can cooperate with rural people and with public and private agencies to encourage rural building to meet the existing need in the following ways:

1. Aid in organizing local arrangements for building, remodeling, repairing, decorating, equipping, furnishing, and landscaping, and acquaint the public with such arrangements and with the most practical ways to use the facilities offered by public and private agencies and individuals for rural and farm building financing and construction.

2. Increase the use of Extension Service facilities for this purpose through:

- a) Specialists organizing committees and field work.
- b) Publicity.
- c) Publications.
- d) Building Plan Service.
- e) County meetings, training conferences, tours, etc.
- f) Supervised building demonstrations and technical consultant aid for prospective builders in cooperation with all local facilities for planning the construction and beautification of rural and farm buildings.
- g) Encouraging the use of farm timber and other local materials in order to enable the largest number of people needing housing to respond to the aid offered in the program.

The attached table of statistics summarized from county agricultural and home economics extension agents' annual reports, shows what has been done by extension workers in farm housing and building work over the entire country during the past 10 years. The annual increases in activity in every column of the table indicate that extension workers are taking advantage of their opportunities to bring about improvement in rural housing, and will welcome such a cooperative endeavor as is under consideration by this committee.

Statistical Results of Cooperative Extension Work, 1930-39,

Relating to Housing

Year	All buildings constructed, remodeled, repaired, painted (including silos)	Farm electrification	Dwellings constructed according to plans furnished	Dwellings remodeled according to plans furnished	Number of families following recommendations in improving room arrangement	Number of families improving treatment of walls, woodwork, and floors	Number of families applying principles of color and design in improving appearance of rooms
1930	53,098	---	1,824	2,883	76,375	58,138	---
1931	46,764	---	1,487	3,112	90,455	68,739	---
1932	60,108	---	1,872	2,922	84,506	64,965	---
1933	40,044	---	1,351	3,619	80,667	67,889	---
1934	55,240	2,371	1,978	5,987	106,734	90,226	75,161
1935	66,941	17,676	3,307	9,525	105,352	102,977	94,476
1936	106,395	124,786	5,203	12,655	117,849	115,308	112,652
1937	98,613	156,451	5,255	14,173	140,974	133,769	142,858
1938	131,189	220,236	6,993	18,918	158,101	150,772	160,076
1939	287,087	316,507	8,698	22,505	162,347	151,217	173,093
Total	994,230	838,027	41,023	100,126	1,123,360	1,056,094	758,316

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Central Housing Committee on Rural Housing

AGENDA -- RURAL HOUSING GET-TOGETHER
Monday, August 5, 1940
Room 1039, South Building
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Agencies invited to attend:

Central Housing Committee (Federal agency)
Central Housing Committee on Rural Housing
Rural Housing Committee of the Committee on Extension Organization and
Policy, Land Grant College Association
U. S. Department of Agriculture Committee on Rural Housing
National Homes Foundation
National Association of Housing Officials, Committee on Rural Housing
- - - -

Federal Housing Administration
Home Owners Loan Corporation
R. F. C. Mortgage Corporation
Farm Credit Administration
U. S. Housing Authority
Farm Security Administration
National Youth Administration
- - - -

Agricultural Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, U. S. Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Education Service, U. S. Office of Education, Federal
Security Agency
Home Economics Education Service, U. S. Office of Education, Federal
Security Agency
- - - -

Land Grant College Association
American Vocational Education Association
American Home Economics Association
American Association of Agricultural Engineers
American Association of Agricultural Editors
Representatives of the Negro's interest in better rural housing
- - - -

American Farm Bureau Federation
National Grange
Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
- - - -

9:30 - Objectives and plans for this get-together meeting M. L. Wilson

9:35 - Who we are, what we are, what we have done, what we are now doing, what we hope to do in the field of rural housing. A brief statement will be made by a representative of each agency or activity. Maximum time allowed each representative -- 5 minutes. Each agency is urged to have a brief mimeographed statement for distribution.

Central Housing Committee - Horace W. Peaslee, Secretary, Washington D. C.

Central Housing Committee on Rural Housing - M. L. Wilson, Chairman; George H. Daniel, Secretary.

Land Grant College Extension Committee on Rural Housing - T. B. Symons, Director of Extension, Maryland, Chairman.

National Homes Foundation Committee on Rural Housing - B. L. Johnson, Editor, American Builder; H. R. Northrup, Executive Secretary.

U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Committee - Ray Smith, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Secretary.

National Association of Housing Officials - Colman Woodbury, Executive Director, Chicago, Ill.

Federal Housing Administration

Home Owners Loan Corporation

R. F. C. Mortgage Corporation

U. S. Housing Authority

Farm Credit Administration

Farm Security Administration

Agricultural Extension Service - S. P. Lyle, In Charge, Agricultural and Home Economics Section

Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering - Wallace Ashby, In Charge, Farm Structure Research Division.

Bureau of Home Economics - Dr. Louise Stanley, Chief.

Forest Service - Payson Irwin.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics - Ray Smith, Chief Program Analyst.

Division of State and Local Planning - B. W. Allin.

Agricultural Education Service, Office of Education - James H. Pearson.

Home Economics Education Service, Office of Education - Edna P. Amidon.

National Youth Administration - Aubrey Williams, or representative.

Negro's interest in better housing - T. M. Campbell, Tuskegee Institute; J. B. Pierce, Hampton Institute; J. M. Gandy, President, Virginia State College for Negroes.

Land Grant College Association - Cecil W. Creel, Assistant Secretary.

American Home Economics Association -

American Vocational Education Association - L. H. Dennis, Executive Secretary.

American Association of Agricultural Engineers - Wallace Ashby.

Association of Agricultural Editors - Walter H. Lloyd, Editor, Ohio Farmer, Cleveland, Ohio.

11:30 Summary report on the rural housing survey made in 1934 and 1935.....
Dr. Louise Stanley.

11:40 - Are the present estimates of national needs in rural housing satisfactory?

11:50 - To what extent is our rural housing problem regional in character?

12 - 12:30 - Open discussion on subjects covered in the morning session.

12:30 - 2 p.m. - Lunch.

Afternoon

Plans and Programs

2:00 - Program of the National Homes Foundation - B. L. Johnson, Editor, American Builder; H. R. Northrup, Executive Secretary; F. Stuart Fitzpatrick, Subcommittee on Education; Miles Colean, Subcommittee on Technical Problems.

2:45 - Financial road map project of the Central Housing Committee on Rural Housing - George H. Daniel, Secretary.

3:00 - To what extent is rural housing retarded by:

- (a) Lack of finance
- (b) Tenancy, poverty, and institutional inhibitions
- (c) Lack of desire or inertia

3:30 - Self-help housing programs and experience in connection therewith. Discussion led by Wallace Ashby and George E. Farrell.

4:00 - Can low-income people be reached by present agencies and programs? If not, what is the extent of this problem?

4:30 - Subsistence homesteads, part-time farming. How can housing in this field be expanded?

4:45 - What is going on in research in relation to rural housing. Ray Smith, Miles Colean, and others.

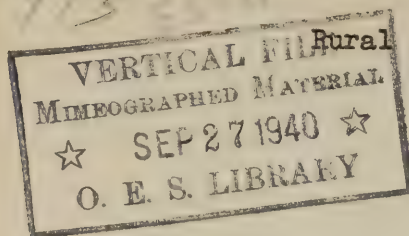
Outline of the Mead Bill - M. L. Wilson.

5:00 - What are the possibilities of lowering the costs in rural housing?

5:15 - How can all agencies work together? Do we need this kind of get-together once in a while?

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1913
PERTINENT FACTS ABOUT THE STATUS OF RURAL HOUSING FOR NEGROES



Rural Housing Get-Together, Monday, August 5, 1940

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Negro Population and Farm Tenure

Total Negro population (1930)	11,891,143
Rural population (farm and nonfarm) (1930)	6,697,230
Urban population (1930)	5,193,913
Total number of Negro farms (1935)	814,908
Percentage of Negro farmers who are:	
Owners, part owners, and managers	22.8
Tenants	31.6
Croppers	45.6
Percentage of all farms operated by Negroes, 15 States	22.23

Negro Extension Workers, 1940

Total number of Negro county extension agents and supervisors	525
Percentage of all county extension workers and supervisors who are Negro	13.11

Negro Land-Grant Colleges, Teachers and Students

Total undergraduate and special students in Negro land-grant colleges	(Men) 5,575 - (Women) 6,208
Degrees granted (1939)	(Men) 688 - (Women) 1,029
Resident instruction staff	(Men) 481 - (Women) 306

Vocational Agriculture for Negroes

Number vocational agricultural departments, all-day, part-time, and evening schools	2,161
Total full-time teachers of vocational agriculture	858
Enrollment in all-day, part-time, and evening schools	31,263

The Extension Service in Relation to Negro Rural Housing

As an educational service agency the Extension Service renders aid to farm families by means of factual information, instruction, and demonstrations with respect to planning, construction, and improvement of houses and other kinds of farm buildings. White extension specialists and to some extent Negro land-grant colleges aid Negro agricultural and home demonstration agents in counties in their efforts to assist farm people in building, remodeling, repairing, decorating, and landscaping farm homes and other buildings, and also through the distribution of bulletins, plans, and working drawings for farm buildings. During 1939 Negro extension workers reported the following accomplishments in farm buildings:

Buildings constructed, including silos.....	5,282
Buildings remodeled, repaired, and painted.....	8,081
Dwellings remodeled or constructed according to plans furnished.....	4,130
Lighting systems installed.....	5,308
Sewage and water systems installed.....	751

Information on the Present Program as Related
To Negro Rural Housing

The Farm-Housing Survey shows a total of 310,596 houses surveyed in the Southern States of which 5.9 percent were nonwhite owned and 30.3 percent nonowned.

The Farm Housing Survey reveals that housing conditions in the South are worse than in any other section of the country. It is obvious therefore that a vast majority of Negroes are directly affected by this situation and probably more seriously so since more than 75 percent of Negro farm operators are tenants and croppers and live in rented houses, the great majority of which do not measure up to a standard to provide adequate comfort.

The Farm Security Administration states that 38 percent of the total Negro population of the United States live on farms in the 16 Southern States. Ninety-five percent of all Negro farm operators are in the South. One-half of the sharecroppers in the South are Negroes and 45.6 of all Negro farmers are croppers.

Data from the Farm Security Administration show that approximately 50,000 rehabilitation loans representing 12.5 percent of the total have been made to Negroes the last 4 years. Negro farmers are 12.6 percent of American farm operators. The number of Negro farm families participating in the F. S. A. program of community development and the number of Negro farm families on projects in occupancy in 13 Southern States is 1,436 or 30 percent of all project occupancy. There will be 1,872 such projects when plans are completed.

In its efforts to develop better social and economic conditions in agriculture the F. S. A. has established homestead projects on which 1,800 Negro families were living in January 1940. By this plan considerable is being done to improve rural housing among Negroes of the South. By virtue of the fact that every farm plan provides for the production at home of enough food to supply the farm family with an adequate balanced diet, much is being done to improve health by preventing disease, and to maintain a standard of living on a higher level, all of which lead to more permanent economic and social security of farm family living.

The first Secretary of the National Association of Public Health Officers, who is now in the United States, has been elected to the position of Secretary of the National Association of Public Health Officers, and is now in the United States. The first Secretary of the National Association of Public Health Officers, who is now in the United States, has been elected to the position of Secretary of the National Association of Public Health Officers, and is now in the United States.

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